

**Town of Cummington
Board of Health
Annual Report for FY2019**

Board of Health activities for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) include:

New Rubbish Compactor

Preparations were made well in advance to replace the 30-year-old rubbish compactor, and as soon as the fiscal year began in July, the new compactor was installed. The housing for loading trash into the compactor was retained, but overlapping joints needed to be reversed, and there were gaps in butted joints. It was sanded, welded, and painted to improve its operation and extend its lifespan. Electrical work was done to relocate the gauge and the switch for activating the new rubbish compactor (so it is accessible when the loading-chute doorway is open). Electrical work was also performed on the Take it or Leave it shed, Transfer Station office, and the rubbish compactor shed, including the shed's overhead light.

Nationwide Changes for Recycling

Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) throughout the region are looking at new options for recycling, largely due to China's rejection of recyclables, throughout the globe. In addition, a glass-recycling facility that had operated for 40 years in Milford, Massachusetts has now retired their business. The Board of Health for Cummington, along with all member-towns within the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) were notified in August 2018 of a September meeting at the Western Region Department of Environmental Protection office regarding Waste Management's plans to implement a per-ton tipping fee for single stream recyclables brought to the Springfield MRF. There is increased awareness that glass, in particular, contaminates other recyclables.

Recent tonnages indicate that new fees could increase Town costs by approximately \$9,000 per year. The same total tonnage in a dual-stream would cost approximately \$4,800 per year. The Board of Health is exploring options like separating paper or glass from the cans and plastics in order to reduce the new costs, by lessening cross-contamination.

The Board will consider options for paying the increased costs. Research and planning have already begun, to be ready before a new contract with the MRF begins in FY2021, which is July 1, 2020.

Grant awarded to Cummington Board of Health

For several years, the Board of Health has been awarded an increasingly high grant from the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) and Recycling Dividends Program (RDP). Cummington was awarded \$5,600 for FY2019, and of the 10 towns within the local region, Cummington qualified for the largest grant.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jim Wettereau, Chair	2022
Jack Earls	2021